## Message Text

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R 241035Z FEB 78 ZFF4 FM AMEMBASSY RABAT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4629

SECRETRABAT 1144

FOR NEA ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 TAGS: MASS MO SS

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST

- 1. THANKS TO JIM BISHOP, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A COPY OF HIS FEBRUARY 13 MEMO TO SID SOBER ENCLOSING A DRAFT MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY RECOMMENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO ME ON OUR NEGATIVE DECISION ON THE MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST. IN THE SECTION ENTITLED "KEY FACTORS", THREE POINTS WHICH WE ASSUME ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF HASSAN'S THINKING SHOULD BE INCLUDED:
- (A) THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT TO PRIME MINISTER OSMAN ON DECEMBER 3, FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN NORTHWEST AFRICA, THAT HE (THE PRESIDENT) RECOGNIZED THE THREAT FROM THE SOVIET UNION, ALGERIA AND CUBA TO PEACE IN AFRICA;
- (B) THE PRESIDENT'S CHARACTERIZATION IN THE SAME CONVERSATION OF THE SAFETY OF MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA AS IMPORTANT FOR US ALL (LAST PARA OF RABAT 7115); AND
- (C) THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN, RELAYED TO KING HASSAN ON JANUARY 10, OVER ALGERIAN AGGRESSION AND THE FACT THAT THE SECRET

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KING CAN COUNT ON THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

2. BECAUSE OF THE FOREGOING AND KING HASSAN'S RECENT PERSONAL LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, I THINK YOU AND ROY SHOULD CONSIDER RECOMMENDING A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER RATHER THAN ONE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA. I WOULD DELIVER THE

LETTER THROUGH BOUCETTA, TO WHOM I WOULD MAKE THE TALKING
POINTS.
ANDERSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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